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 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8498  
 INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 4238  
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 7731  
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 2623  
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 8539  
 RUEHRH/USELO RIYADH 4749  
 BT  
 S E C R E T T E L AVIV 00456

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, MASS, IS, EG  
 SUBJECT: ARENS EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT SUPPLY OF U.S.  
 - ARMS TO EGYPT

REF: (A) 83 TEL AVIV 17696, (B) TEL AVIV 454

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH CODEL TOWER LAST WEEK, BOTH DEFENSE MINISTER ARENS AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DAVID LEVY SAID ISRAEL IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. MILITARY AID TO EGYPT, A POINT WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAVE RECENTLY RAISED WITH OTHER VISITING CODELS (REF. A). SPEAKING WITH CONSIDERABLE FEELING DURING A JANUARY 4 DINNER ATTENDED BY SENIOR MOD OFFICIALS AND IDF OFFICERS (REF. B), ARENS SAID ISRAELIS WERE VERY WORRIED ABOUT "U.S. REARMAMENT" OF EGYPT AND NOTED THAT ISRAEL WAS TAKING THIS FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DRAWING UP ITS OWN MILITARY BUDGET. HERUT MK YOSEF ROM, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE DINNER, SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASED MECHANIZATION AND HENCE MOBILITY OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY. MOD DIRECTOR GENERAL MERON SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO EGYPT WOULD BE LINKED TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEACE PROCESS. IN SHORT, ARENS SAID, ISRAEL IS AFRAID THAT SOPHISTICATED U.S. WEAPONS WOULD BE TURNED AGAINST ISRAEL SHOULD MUBARAK'S REGIME BE SUDDENLY OVERTHROWN BY ANTI-PEACE FORCES. SENATOR TOWER COUNTERED BY STRESSING THAT THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IS PRIMARY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, AND ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CODEL ALSO INTERJECTED THAT EGYPT HAS OTHER CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY QADHAFI'S EXPANSIONIST TENDENCIES WHICH THREATEN ALL OF NORTH AFRICA. (NOTE: A FAIRLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF ARENS' COMMENTS TO CODEL TOWER ON U.S. ARMS AID TO EGYPT

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APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 6 MAARIV. THE ARTICLE ALSO  
NOTED THAT THE TWO SENATORS DISAGREED WITH ARENS'  
ASSESSMENT OF THE "EGYPTIAN THREAT.")  
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3. IN A SEPARATE JANUARY 4 MEETING, DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER DAVID LEVY ALSO SPOKE ABOUT ISRAEL'S "COLD  
PEACE" WITH EGYPT. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN  
"INTERNAL STORM" IN ISRAEL OVER THE HIGH PRICE  
ISRAEL PAID FOR PEACE. HE SAID THAT HE AND A MAJORITY  
OF ISRAELIS BELIEVE FERVENTLY IN PEACE WITH EGYPT,  
BUT WHAT HAS RESULTED FROM THE PEACE TREATY IS NOT  
EXACTLY THE "REALIZATION OF A DREAM." HE SAID THAT  
ISRAEL NONTHELESS WAS TRYING TO PREVENT FURTHER  
DETERIORATION AND TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT.  
THE PEACE WITH EGYPT MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND HE  
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT "EGYPT'S REARMAMENT." HE  
HOPED THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONSULTATIONS AND THE  
CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. WOULD HELP TO  
ENSURE THAT PEACE WITH EGYPT WILL ENDURE AND THAT  
THE PROCESS CAN BE EXPANDED.  
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4. THE SUBJECT OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO EGYPT DID NOT  
COME UP IN THE CODEL'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER  
SHAMIR AND KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN ELIAHU BEN-ELISSAR (ISRAEL'S FIRST AMBASSADOR  
IN CAIRO.)

5. THIS CABLE NOT SEEN BY CODEL TOWER. FLATEN  
END OF MESSAGE

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